

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 EC BRU 00153 072030Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 IO-11 NEA-10 NSAE-00

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 /111 W

----- 007949

O R 071932Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 259

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1507

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 153

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, EEC, COMECON, RO

SUBJECT: SOAMES TO VISIT BUCHAREST FOR "INFORMAL" TALKS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES IS DEPARTING JANUARY 7 FOR A SHORT VISIT TO RUMANIA. SOAMES' TRIP FOLLOWS AN INVITATION EXTENDED LAST FALL (PRIOR TO HIS TWO-MONTH MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE) BY THE RUMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. SOAMES IS TO SPEAK BEFORE THIS GROUP AND IS ALSO EXPECTED TO MEET WITH ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING ROMANIAN PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS TELL US THEY THINK THE ROMANIANS MAY BE SCREWING UP THEIR COURAGE TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EC. WE CONSIDER IT UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE SOAMES VISIT WILL PRODUCE ANY BREAKTHROUGH. AT BEST, THE ROMANIANS MIGHT INDICATE THEIR DESIRE TO CONTINUE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY AT THE EXPERT LEVEL SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 EC BRU 00153 072030Z

2. EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, SIR CHRISTOPHER SOAMES, ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY HIS CHEF DE CABINET, DAVID HANNAY, IS TO VISIT BUCHAREST FROM JANUARY 7-10. SOAMES IS TRAVELING AT THE INVITATION OF THE ROMANIAN ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND WILL SPEAK BEFORE A MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION.

3. SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET, HANNAY, AND THE COMMISSION'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS, DE KERGORLAY, TOLD AMBASSADOR GREENWALD THEY THINK THE ROMANIANS MAY BE TAKING A STEP TOWARD A BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THE EC. THEIR THEORY IS THAT THE ROMANIANS MAY REGARD THIS AS THEIR LAST OPPORTUNITY TO PULL OFF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT BEFORE CEMA PRESSURE MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION AS TO WHAT WAS IN IT FOR THE ROMANIANS AS LONG AS THEY HAVE GSP PRIVILEGES, THE COMMISSION OFFICIALS POINTED OUT THAT ROMANIA DOES NOT GET FULL GSP BENEFITS. ALSO, THE EC MIGHT OFFER SOME RELAXATION OF DISCRIMINATORY QRS. HANNAY AND DE KERGORLAY INDICATED THE COMMISSION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING NOT ONLY TO ATTRACT THE ROMANIANS TO USE THEIR MODEL BILATERAL AGREEMENT BUT ALSO IN THE HOPE THAT A BREAK IN RANKS MIGHT LEAD OTHER CEMA MEMBERS TO FOLLOW. (COMMENT: REPORTING FROM MOSCOW AND ELSEWHERE INDICATES THAT CEMA HAS YET TO REACH A FINAL INTERNAL DECISION ON ANY CONTACTS WITH THE COMMISSION. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY FORMAL MOVEMENT WITHIN CEMA, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO VIEW THE SOAMES VISIT AS ROMANIA'S "LAST CHANCE".)

4. WORKING-LEVEL CONTACTS IN THE COMMISSION ARE LESS OPTIMISTIC THAN HANNAY AND DE KERGORLAY ABOUT THE SOAMES MISSION. THEY AGREE THAT THE SOAMES VISIT WILL GIVE THE ROMANIANS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS THE COMMUNITY FOR AN EASING OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS OR AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE GSP PROVISIONS OFFERED TO ROMANIA. REGARDING QRS, THESE SOURCES INDICATE THE COMMISSION HAS NO CLEAR IDEA OF WHICH QRS AT PRESENT CON- STRICT EC/ROMANIA TRADE. ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON THE RELAXATION OF GRS COULD ONLY BE UNDERTAKEN AFTER THE COMMISSION HAS A CLEARER IDEA OF WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE FOR TRADE EXPANSION. REGARDING GSP, THESE SOURCES POINT OUT THAT PROVISIONS ARE GRANTED ON A UNILATERAL BASIS, AND THAT THE COMMISSION WILL NOT DIRECTLY NEGOTIATE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONCESSIONS OFFERED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 EC BRU 00153 072030Z

ROMANIA. THE AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN TO ROMANIANS INVOLVE GSP TREATMENT FOR IMPORTS OF TEXTILES, RADIO AND TELEVISION SETS OR PARTS, AND FOOTWEAR. OUR SOURCES POINT OUT THAT IN VIEW OF THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ASSOCIATED WITH THESE PRODUCTS IN THE COMMUNITY AT THE PRESENT TIME THE GRANTING OF ANY CONCESSIONS TO ROMANIA WOULD BE LIKELY TO MEET WITH IMMEDIATE MEMBER STATE OPPOSITION.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE THE DIFFERING INTERPRETATIONS OF WHAT IS LIKELY TO EMERGE FROM THE VISIT AS INDICATED ABOVE, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE SOAMES TRIP WILL PROVIDE THE ROMANIANS WITH AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND THEIR CONTACT WITH THE COMMUNITY. THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THIS CHANCE IS DEPENDENT ON A NUMBER OF FACTORS WHICH ARE DIFFICULT TO ASSESS FROM HERE. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE FACT OF THE VISIT ALONE WILL PROVE USEFUL IN THE CONTINUING DISPUTE REGARDING THE FREEDOM OF CEMA MEMBER STATES TO NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH THE EC. GREENWALD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERNATIONAL LAW, VISITS, MEETINGS, TRADE AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU00153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760005-0649
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760180/aaaactlp.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <15 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOAMES TO VISIT BUCHAREST FOR "INFORMAL" TALKS
TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, RO, EEC, COMECON, (SOAMES, CHRISTOPHER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006